

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - NIXON'S MOSCOW TRIP

REF: WIRELESS FILE EPF-17

1. HONG KONG CHINESE-LANGUAGE PAPERS COMMENTING ON
PRESIDENT NIXON'S MOSCOW VISIT MOSTLY SAW HIS BARGAINING
POSITION IMPROVED BY THE SIGNING OF THE OTTAWA DECLARATION.

2. THE CONSERVATIVE WAH KIU YAT PO SAID: "IT IS SAID THAT,
WHILE IN BRUSSELS TO SIGN THE DECLARATION OF ATLANTIC
RELATIONSHIP, NIXON WILL NOT ONLY CONTACT THE LEADERS OF
VARIOUS COUNTRIES AT THE MEETING BUT ALSO HOLD TALKS WITH
LEADERS OF WEST GERMANY, BRITAIN, ITALY AND OTHER NATO
COUNTRIES. THIS SHOULD STRENGTHEN NIXON'S BARGAINING
POSITION IN THE FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS."

3. THE PRO-COMMUNIST NEW EVENING POST NOTED THAT THE
SOVIET UNION HAD BOOSTED ITS OWN BARGAINING POSITION BY
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LAUNCHING A SPACE STATION. "IN FACT, WHILE NIXON HOPES

TO GAIN FROM THE TALKS TO IMPROVE HIS OWN POSITION (AT HOME), BREZHNEV IS ENTERTAINING A SIMILAR HOPE. DESPITE PREDICTIONS THAT NO SIGNIFICANT AGREEMENT WILL RESULT FROM THE MOSCOW TALKS, THE TWO OF THEM WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE SOME AGREEMENTS, INSIGNIFICANT THOUGH THEY MAY BE, IF ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF EMBELLISHMENT. A PARTIAL BAN ON UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST IS ONE....," THE PAPER SAID.

5. THE PRO-COMMUNIST TA KUNG PAO COMMENTED: "THE NEW (ATLANTIC) DECLARATION WAS FINALLY SIGNED YESTERDAY. THIS DELAYED ACHIEVEMENT REFLECTS CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN SITUATION. BUT IT DOES NOT MEAN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE COMPLETELY REASSURED ABOUT THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS, THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPER DIE WELT HAS POINTED OUT THAT, DURING HIS TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, NIXON SHOULD CONSIDER WESTERN EUROPE'S RIGHT OF POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE, OTHERWISE THE 'ATLANTIC MANSION' CAN STILL COLLAPSE."

5. THE PRO-COMMUNIST COMMERCIAL DAILY NOTED THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, AS REFLECTED BY NEWSWEEK, DOUBTS WHETHER THE SUMMIT WILL ACHIEVE ANYTHING AND THAT IT IS EVEN WORTHWHILE. "THERE IS AMPLE REASON FOR SUCH DOUBT, THE CHIEF POINT BEING THAT CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS, THE U.S. AND THE U.S.S.R., HAS GROWN EVEN MORE INTENSE THAN BEFORE, AND THEIR ARMS RACE IS EVEN MORE HEATED. CONSEQUENTLY FEW PEOPLE CAN GO ON BELIEVING IN THE SO-CALLED 'DETENTE' THAT BREZHNEV TALKS ABOUT," COMMERCIAL DAILY CONCLUDED.

6. THE PRO-KMT EXPRESS SPECULATED THAT NIXON MIGHT FOLLOW HIS MOSCOW TRIP WITH A SECOND VISIT TO PEKING, TO ASSURE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS THAT THERE IS NO ANTI-CHINA COLLUSION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. THE PAPER REMARKED THAT PEKING NEED HAVE NO FEAR OF SUCH COLLUSION AS IT WOULD RUN COUNTER TO NIXON'S PRESENT CHINA POLICY. IZENBERG

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